

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Happy Easter!
April 16, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **You will be prayed for at the next Dunamis!** Our monthly Prayer and Worship Night is coming up and the Small Group Ministry will be one of the ten ministries prayed for that evening. Would you and your small group like to go and be a part of those prayers? Go to the building in between the Sanctuary and Elementary Building, at 3556 Ruffin Rd., Tuesday, April 25, 7-9 PM and let God work mightily through your prayers.
- **Small Group Essentials Training, Part II** – Saturday, May 20, 8-11:30 AM, includes breakfast. Topics to be discussed are Leading Difficult People, Effective Conflict and Confrontation, Leadership 101 – How Leadership Works, and Raising Up the Next Generation of Leaders. RSVP by May 12 to andrewr@therocksandiego.org or 619.226.7625 x242.
- **For all other Rock Announcements** please go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/announcements/> or see the Rock Event Calendar at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Getting Started

Do you ever think to yourself, “I wish I could better comprehend His death and resurrection more fully?” or “I want Easter to be more meaningful in my life”? What about, “I know the suffering of Jesus was incredibly intense, I just can’t get my arms around it to understand what it really means for me”?

Even seasoned Christians struggle with these questions. The sacrifice of Jesus is beyond what our human minds can comprehend. Jesus wants to reveal the answers to these questions to you – not on a thinking or cognitive level – but on a spiritual level. We can’t think enough about these questions to get answers. We have to let Jesus reveal them to us.

This week in small group we want you to take time to think about these questions. We want to give you an opportunity to consider what is preventing Jesus from answering these questions in your life.

As you prepare to study together as a small group ask God to move in you and reveal the hidden things in your hearts. Like Jesus prayed in Matthew 11:25—*At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."*—may you come to God as little children.

1. Did you attend the Good Friday or Easter Service this weekend? What was your experience like? How did God speak to your heart?

Digging Deeper

What are your thoughts on the following statements?

- We have to set something down to pick something up.
- We have to leave one place to arrive somewhere else.

Can you think of an example in your life when this was/is true?

2. In what way does this idea of letting go of the old in order to take full advantage of the new apply to our spiritual growth? Consider the below passages and really spend some time digging into them.

- *Galatians 2:20*
- *Galatians 5:24*
- *Romans 6:1-7*
- *John 12:24-25*
- *Galatians 5:16*
- *Romans 6: 4-7*
- *Romans 6:8-14*
- *Ephesians 2:4-5*
- *Colossians 2:13-15*

Bringing it Home

So, what does it really mean to die to sin and our old selves? How can we do it better?

In order for us to experience new growth, something in us needs to die. Perhaps it's a relationship, perhaps it's an expectation about the way we think our lives should be, or maybe it's our pride or our desire for control. The list could go on. But in order for God to make changes we need to let go.

- What are you clinging to that you don't want to let go of?
- What does God want from you that you are reluctant to give?
- What does God want to crucify so that He can live through you more fully?

Your challenge this week is to reflect on these questions and allow God to reveal to you what needs to die in your life. We believe that in doing so you'll better comprehend Jesus' death and resurrection; Easter will become more meaningful in your life and you'll better understand the suffering of Jesus.